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Statement submitted by Center for Africa Development and Progress, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

There couldn't have been a more appropriate theme than the one chosen by the Economic and Social Council for its 2015 session.

The Center for Africa Development and Progress believes that the theme must have been inspired by the recognition of what humanity has achieved with the help of science and technology and the potential of science/technology to propel humanity into uncharted developmental areas.

Today, developing countries in Africa, Caribbean, Asia and Latin America are harnessing the benefits of scientific and technological innovation to improve quality healthcare delivery, fight HIV/AIDS and other deadly diseases. In agriculture, the deployment of technology has resulted in improved farming techniques, better seeds/seedlings and improved yield. Many African nations have suffered one or another form of drought, but through science and technology it is now possible to farm with very little water. No human endeavour has been impacted by technological advancements as in Communications. We have seen how the M-PESA is transforming lives in Kenya, making it possible for people to remit money to family members without going through the hustle akin to a regular commercial bank.

A nation without science and technology has no place in the 21st century. Every aspect of human live today revolves around science and technology. But leveraging technology for sustainable development does not happen in isolation. It requires an enabling environment production and deployment.

Moving on, governments would have to do more to bridge further the technological gaps that exist between the developed and developing countries. A major factor serving as a stumbling block to progress in these areas is the lack of technological know-how and financial resources.

We strongly believe that entrepreneurship is another way of fighting poverty. Training people to acquire certain skills is a way of empowering them. Through this they would become employable or self-employed.

We also believe that endowed nations should aid the less privileged countries to help them tackle technological challenges.

As a first step towards building the capacity of developing countries in technology, there is the need to overhaul existing educational systems in developing countries. The education should be tailored towards solving the peculiar needs of individual countries with science and technology being a major thrust of education. The issue of technology transfer should be taken seriously. Investors from developed countries must be required to transfer some form of technology to the country where they invest. It is not just enough to pump money into an economy without leaving behind technology that will aid in the development of that country.